

# 16 Mile Fire

**20 April – 2 May 2016**

**8,032 Acres**

**Monroe & Pike Counties**

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

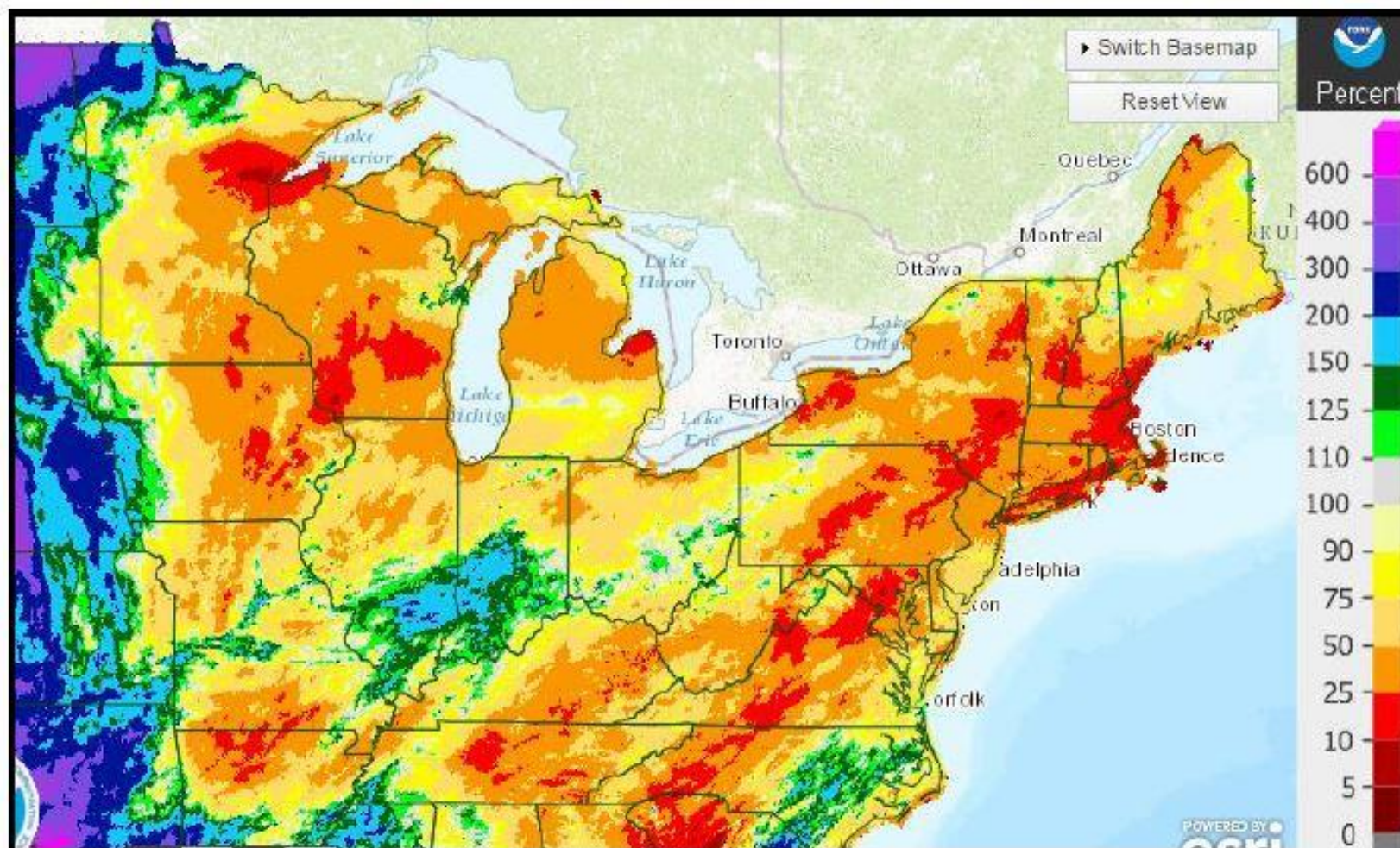


**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

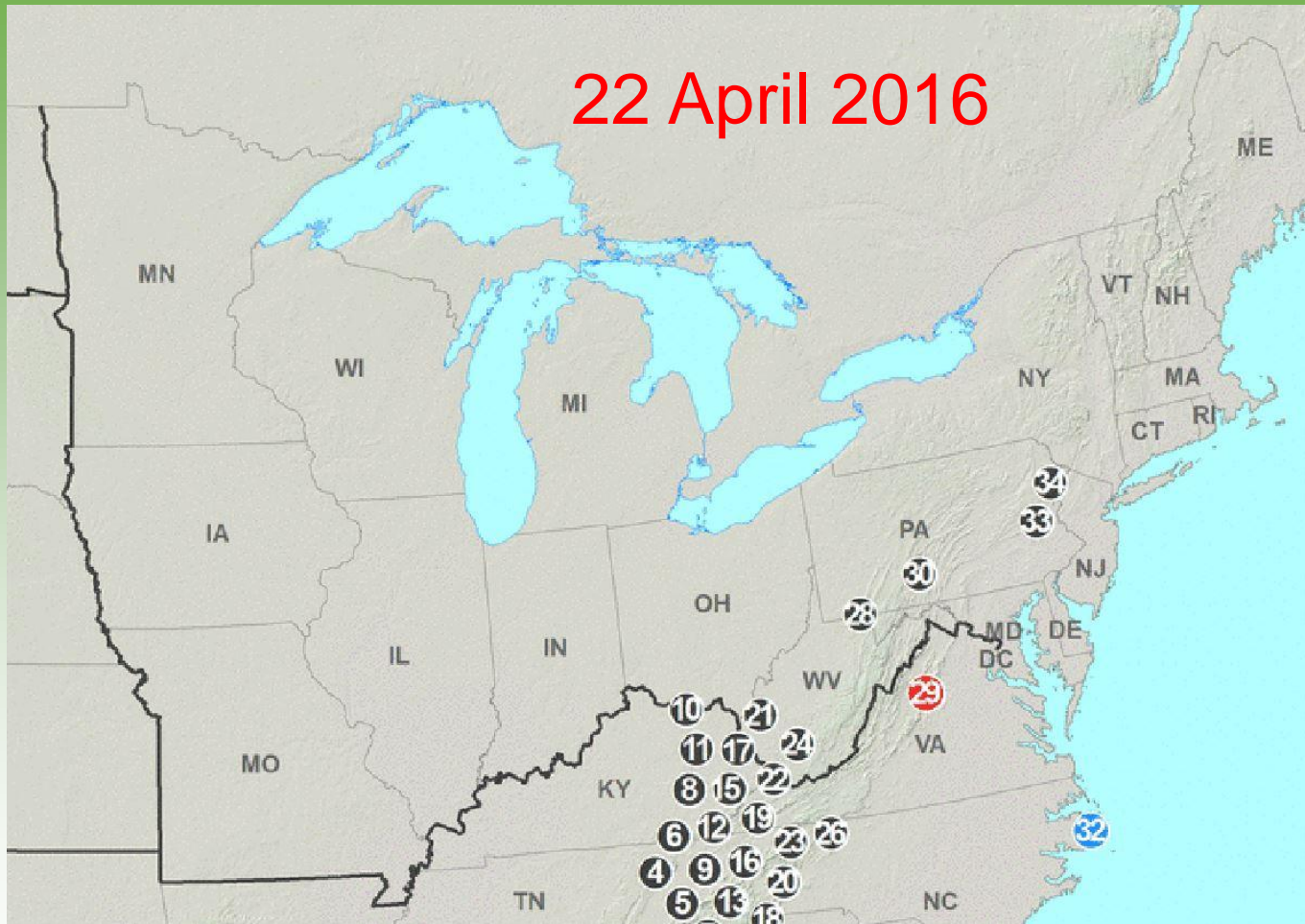
# Background

- Little snow cover over winter.
- 5<sup>th</sup> warmest and driest March on record.
- 2014 and 2015 Gypsy Moth defoliation and subsequent mortality.

# 14 Day Historical Percent of Normal Precipitation



# PA-PAS Large Wildfires



# 20 April 2016

- 16 Mile Fire initially reported as two separate starts at 1000 hours.
- Beartown Fire reported about 1 hour later as two additional fires about 3 miles south west.
- By end of shift, Beartown estimated 300 acres, 16 Mile 900 acres.
- Beartown was priority due to direct threat to primary residences.

# Weather, Fuels, Fire Behavior

- Red Flag Warnings on 19 and 20 April.
- 1000 hours on 20 April:
  - Temp 58, Winds NW 6-18, RH 21%
- 1500 hours on 20 April:
  - Temp 71, Winds NW 3-11, RH 8%
- Up to 50 snags per acre, Gypsy Moth mortality
- Spotting distances reported up to 500'

20 April @ 1600 hours

16 Mile

Beartown

# 22 April

- Additional resources requested from Compact states
- Beartown – good progress on containment, 600 acres
- 16 Mile – little to no containment, 3500 acres at 1030 and 5000 acres at 2000.
- Type 3 IC requested Type 2 Team late in evening.

# 23-24 April

- EA Type 2 team personnel begin to arrive.
- Plan was to shadow on 24 April and assume command of 16 Mile on 25 April.
- 5600 acres at end of shift on 23rd.
- 5900 acres at end of shift on 24<sup>th</sup>.

# 25 April

- Eastern Area Type 2 Team assumes command.
- End of shift 8000 acres, mostly due to burnout operations.
- Last date of significant fire growth.



# Structures Lost

- 5 seasonal residences.
- 6 outbuildings.
- About 200 structures, mostly seasonal residences, threatened at peak



# Notable

- EA Type 2 Team closeout on 2 May.
- 217 personnel assigned at peak.
- 16 States represented.
- 4 Compact States.
- 3 minor injuries, 1 required off-site care.
- 1 contract dozer damaged beyond repair due to mechanical issues.

# Challenges

- Forest Health
- Fuels
- Climate
- Expanding Populations
- Resources:
  - Availability / Succession Planning / Capacity

# Fire Management Assistance Grant

- Process initiated on 22 April.
- Discussions and data gathering on 23-24 April.
- 25 April, Governor's Authorized Representative made decision not to formally apply on morning of 25 April.
- Fire growth essentially stopped that afternoon.